Remarks

A. Pending Claims

Claims 1, 5-11, and 15-25 are rejected. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 11, 21, and 22 have been amended. Claims 1, 5, 7-11, and 15-25 are pending.

B. The Claims Are Patentable Over Ochiai et al. Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,757,482 to Ochiai et al. (hereinafter "Ochiai"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Amended claim 1 describes a combination of feature including, but not limited to, the features of:

wherein said playback means comprises:

> a first navigator unit comprising a first program for reading out the control information in the storage device by said second input means in the first playback mode, analyzing the readout control information, and controlling read of the multimedia information in the storage device in accordance with an analysis result; wherein the first program is stored in the multimedia information playback apparatus; and
>
> a second navigator unit comprising a second program for controlling read of the multimedia information in the storage device on the basis of the control information distributed from the network server in the second playback mode, wherein the second program is obtained from the network server.

Support for the amendment is found in original claim 6. In addition, Applicant's specification states, at least in part:

> Note that a program held by the navigator unit 31 is read out from the HDD 18, and mapped in the RAM 12 before processing by the CPU 11. In the following description, "playback" means processing of performing read control of a VOB file and playing back a picture and sound on the basis of control

> information such as an IFO file recorded on the DVD-ROM 80 in advance in accordance with the DVD standard or a command necessary 5 for read control in the first playback mode.
> (Specification, page 9, line 24 through page 10, line 5)

> The extended-navigator switching unit 43 supplies a switching instruction to a program for operating the CPU 11 in the second playback mode that is loaded from the external server 90 and mapped in the extended-navigator holding unit 60, i.e., RAM 12, which will be described later. By this switching instruction, the playback mode is switched from the first playback mode to the second one. If mutual authentication is not normally done in the authentication unit 42, no program is loaded.
> (Specification page 12, lines 14-23)

Ochiai does not appear to teach or suggest the combination of the features of the claim, including, but not limited to the feature of having two distinct navigator units, the first running an internally loaded program, the other running an externally obtained program.

The Examiner alleges that Ochiai teaches the use of a first navigator unit and a second navigator unit. Specifically, the Office Action states that Ochiai teaches:

> The CPU (See Fig. 2, CPU 5) serves the function of the "first navigator unit" wherein it "reads out the control information" from the HDD, "analyzes the control information", and controls the received broadcast data dynamic editing system to "read the multimedia information in the storage device in accordance with an analysis result" when playing the multimedia information in broadcasting order or "first playback mode" (See Fig. 2; column 10, line 31-65). Furthermore, the CPU also serves the function of the "second navigator unit" wherein it reads from the HDD or "second playback mode" on the "basis of the control information distributed from the network server in the second playback mode (e.g., script data) (See Fig. 2; column 10 line 31-65)

Applicant respectfully disagrees that Ochiai teaches the features of Applicant's claims. The Office Action appears to equate the CPU 5 of Ochiai with Applicant's claims first navigator unit and second navigator unit. As depicted in Applicant's Figures 2 and 5, Applicant's device includes a first navigator unit (e.g., 30), and a second navigator unit (e.g., 60). Applicant submits that Ochiai does not appear to teach or suggest the feature of using two distinct control units for controlling playback operations.

Additionally, Applicant's claims include, but are not limited to the features of "a first navigator unit comprising a first program for reading out the control information in the storage device ... wherein the first program is stored in the multimedia information playback apparatus" and "a second navigator unit comprising a second program for controlling read of the multimedia information ... wherein the second program is obtained from the network server." Applicant submits that Ochiai does not appear to teach or suggest using two different programs depending on the operating mode of the playback device. In fact, based on the Office Action's analysis of Ochiai, it would appear that Ochiai is limited to a single processor CPU 5, which performs playback control for all modes of operation. Thus, inherently, such a system relies on a single program to control playback operation.

As such, Applicant submits claim 1 is patentable over Ochiai. Applicant submits that the claims dependent on claim 1 (claims 5, 7-10) are patentable over Ochiai.

For at least the reasons state above, Applicant submits that claims 11, 21, and 22 and the claims dependent thereon (claims 15-20, 24, and 25) are patentable over Ochiai.

C. The Claims Are Patentable Over Ochiai In View of Kamo Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002-0057694 to Kamo (hereinafter "Kamo"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

For at least the reasons stated above, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Ochiai.

Claim 5 includes the feature of "wherein said switching means comprises: authentication means for authenticating the network server upon reception of a switching request signal from a user; and means for switching the playback mode of said playback means to the second playback mode when said authentication means authenticates the network server as an authentic network server" in combination with the features of claim 1.

For at least the reasons previously mentioned, Ochiai does not appear to teach or suggest at least the quoted features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 5 in combination with the features of claim 1 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 15 includes the feature of "an eighth step of authenticating the network server upon reception of a switching request signal from a user; and a ninth step of executing the sixth step when the network server is authenticated as an authentic network server on the basis of execution of the eighth step" in combination with the features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 15 in combination with the features of claim 11 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

D. The Claims Are Patentable Over Ochiai In View Of Dan Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 7, 9, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,561,637 to Dan et al. (hereinafter "Dan"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant submits claims 1 is patentable over Ochiai.

Claim 7 states in part: "wherein the network server generates group management information for managing a plurality of users having similar personal information as one group and generates, based on the group management information, for controlling playback of the multimedia information, and wherein the playback means plays back the multimedia information based on the generated control information."

Dan does not appear to teach or suggest a network server generating the control data, which is not determined by the group members. Dan appears to teach choosing a leader from a

group watching the same video and controlling video reproduction of the group members according to the leader's operation. Dan states:

> One way to integrate both the client pull and the server push strategies is to designate a particular client for a given multicast group (i.e. a group of clients viewing the same video as part of the same session) as the leader... When the leader requires the next block of the video, it sends a pull request to the server. The server treats this as a request on behalf of all clients in the multicast group. (Column 2, line 61 through Column 3 line 3)

Applicant submits that Dan does not appear to teach any particular criteria that are used to form the group, other than the members of the group are watching the same video broadcast at the same time. In contrast, Applicant's "group management information" is based on the playback information from users having "similar personal information." Dan does not appear to teach or suggest forming a group based on members having "similar personal information". As such, Applicant submits that claim 7 is patentable over Ochiai alone or in combination with Dan.

Claim 9 states in part, "wherein the network server distributes multimedia information of digital broadcasting having a plurality of channels, and said playback means plays back multimedia information of a channel corresponding to the control information" in combination with the features of claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 9 in combination with the features of claim 1 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 17 states in part, "wherein the network server comprises: a first step of generating group management information for managing a plurality of users having similar personal information as one group and generating, based on the group management information, the control information for controlling playback of the multimedia information; and wherein the third step comprises a fifth step of playing back the multimedia information on the basis of the control information generated by execution of the first step of the network server." Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 17 in combination with the features of claim 11 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 19 state in part, "wherein the network server comprises: a first step of distributing multimedia information of digital broadcasting having a plurality of channels; and the third step comprises a fifth step of playing back multimedia information of a channel corresponding to the control information." Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 19 in combination with the features of claim 11 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

E. The Claims Are Patentable Over Ochiai In View of Brown Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 8 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,179 to Brown et al. ("Brown"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Ochiai.

Claim 8 states in part, "wherein said playback means comprises determination means for, when change operation of the control information by a user is detected during playback of the multimedia information, determining whether to receive the change operation, in accordance with personal information of the user, and when said determination means determines that the change operation of the control information is receivable, said playback means plays back the multimedia information on the basis of the control information changed in accordance with user operation." Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 8 in combination with the features of claim 1 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 18 states in part, "a fifth step of, when change operation of the control information by a user is detected during playback of the multimedia information, determining whether to receive the change operation, in accordance with personal information of the user; and a sixth step of, when the change operation of the control information is determined to be receivable by execution of the fifth step, playing back the multimedia information on the basis of the control

information changed in accordance with user operation." Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 18 in combination with the features of claim 11 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

F. The Claims Are Patentable Over Ochiai In View of Mages et al. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,329 to Mages et al. (hereinafter "Mages"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Ochiai.

Claim 10 states in part, "wherein the control information contains a program for checking user operation contents, and when user operation is detected during playback of the multimedia information, said playback means executes the program, and plays back multimedia information corresponding to the user operation contents." Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 10 in combination with the features of claim 1 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

Claim 20 state in part, "wherein the control information includes a program for checking user operation contents, and the third step comprises a fifth step of, when user operation is detected during playback of the multimedia information, executing the program, and playing back multimedia information corresponding to the user operation contents." Applicant respectfully submits the features of claim 20 in combination with the features of claim 11 does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

G. The Claims Are Patentable Over Ochiai Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ochiai. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Claims 23-25 state in part, "wherein the first distribution source is a DVD-ROM." Applicant respectfully submits the features of claims 23, 24, and 25 in combination with the features of independent claims 1, 11, and 22, respectfully, does not appear to be taught or suggested by the cited art.

H. Additional Remarks

Based on the above, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated August 21, 2006. A fee authorization form is enclosed for the extension of time fee. If any fees are required or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5664-00100/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,

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